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**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In the Application of:

**W. THIELE  
K. WILDNER  
H. MATSCHINER  
S. PRIGGEMEYER  
W. HARNISCHMACHER  
P. ROHRIG**

Case No.: **60210-USA**

Serial No **09/830,617**

Group Art Unit: **UNKNOWN**

Filed: **APRIL 27, 2001**

EXAMINER: **UNKNOWN**

**FOR: CIRCULAR METHOD FOR PICKLING COPPER AND COPPER ALLOYS**

Hon. Asst. Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

In the Claims:

Before examining the application, please cancel claims 1-15 and substitute therefore the following claims:

- 1        16. (newly presented) A continuous method for pickling copper or a
- 2        copper alloy, the method comprising the steps of:
- 3            (a)    pickling the copper or copper alloy with a pickling solution and
- 4        producing a spent pickling solution;
- 5            (b)    regenerating the spent pickling solution to produce a regenerated
- 6        pickling solution; and
- 7            (c)    introducing the regenerated pickling solution into the pickling
- 8        solution;
- 9        In which: